GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1822
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Students Illegally Staying in US
Maragatham Smt. K.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 300 Indian students are facing action by the US Government for allegedly staying in the US illegally;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up this issue with the US Government; and

(d) if so, the response received from the US Government in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (d) According to the US Government, the US authorities have arrested 22 brokers, recruiters, and employers, some of whom are their own nationals, from across the United States, who allegedly conspired with foreign nationals to fraudulently obtain student and foreign worker visas for the latter through a "pay to stay" New Jersey college viz. University of Northern New Jersey (UNNJ). This "college" was created and operated as part of the US Homeland Security Investigation's (HSI) enforcement action in this matter.

As per the US Government, during the investigation, HSI special agents identified 1,076 foreign nationals who previously entered the US on F-1 non-immigrant student visas to attend other accredited schools and were found to have knowingly participated in visa fraud by enrolling at UNNJ for the sole purpose of illegally obtaining and/or maintaining their F-1 non-immigrant status. 306 of these students are Indian nationals. It is understood that the US authorities have terminated the enrolment of all these students. The US authorities have further informed that any student thus terminated, who chooses not to file for reinstatement or has his/her reinstatement application denied, must depart the country immediately.

The Government is in touch with the US Government and has emphasized to the US Government that due process must be followed and there should be no harassment and injustice.